

THE COURTS.

THE DICKIE WILL CONTEST.

BUSYING THE DISPOSITION OF A MILLIONAIRE'S ESTATE.

One of the largest estates now in contest before Surrogate Cairin is that of the late Patrick Dickie, a city contractor, who died in 1874. His fortune, estimated to be worth from \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000, was unequally divided between the different members of his family. One of his daughters at the time of his death was in an insane asylum, where she had been confined since 1871. When it was proposed to have a committee appointed to care for her, and that the contest might be carried on, the Court appointed a lawyer to maintain her rights. The consequence of the investigation that followed was that the sheriff's jury declared her sane, and she was released from confinement. The case attracted attention because of the wealth of the family and the singular circumstances under which Miss Dickie had been kept in the asylum. The contestants are the widow of F. J. S. Foster, president of the *Pewabic*, in Warren, Halliard, and others, who had lived next door to Mr. Dickie, at No. 3 West Thirty-eighth; when the witness had mechanics working on his roof, Mr. Dickie complained of them; at one time the witness and Mr. Dickie exchanged words, and it much excited him much exasperated his house. But the witness did not remember any more extraordinary conduct on the part of Mr. Dickie.

THIEVING EMPLOYEES CAUGHT.

At the Tombs Police Court yesterday, before Justice Morgan, William Foster, attorney, age forty years, of No. 44 West Fifty-third-st., and Charles Lowe, porter, age thirty-five years, of No. 45 Delafield-st., were charged by William Chock, of Clark & Brother, manufacturers of cotton goods, at No. 479 and 481 Broome-st., with the larceny of four pieces of Steed's cloth and one piece of brown jean, all of the value of \$29, while in the employment of the complainants.

In the past six months, the complainants say they have sustained losses to the amount of \$3,000 by having goods stolen. It was noticed that the thefts usually occurred Saturday, when the store was closed. Latey some vigilance was exercised, and an ex parte injunction was issued by Justice Foster, yesterday, requiring Foster to have a bar containing the pieces of Silks and brown jeans to whom he escaped. Foster claims he got the goods from Lowe, and Lowe asserts they were stolen and not taken of Foster, to dispose of the same.

It is also alleged that a package was observed in transit, which had been ex parte by Foster to his wife at Farham, near No. 666 Sixth-st. A warrant was issued for Foster, and he was arrested at Peckham, and Detectives Fogarty and Handy proceeded to execute it.

YOUNG DRUNKARDS AND THIEVES.

Officer White, of the Fifty-ninth Street Station House, found Thomas Malon, age ten, of No. 202 East Sixty-third-st., and Thomas Maloney, age ten, of No. 212 East Sixty-third-st., intoxicated in the street on Tuesday night. When they became sober, in the Station House, they said they had got drunk on 10 cents' worth of liquor, which they had purchased in a bucket-shop near where they live. Efforts were made by the police, at the suggestion of Justice S. in the Fifteenth Street Court, to get the boys home in the boy's own interest, but they would not go. The boys were remanded to await inquiries by Officer Chard.

Philip Rudolph, age fourteen, and Edward Stevenson, age fifteen, both living at No. 102 East Sixty-third-st., with their mother, in the apartments of Theodore Kuhnsman, of No. 427 East Fifteenth-st., into which they had broken for the purpose of robbing them. While Kuhnsman was endeavoring to hold Stevenson, the latter hit him in the head, inflicting a severe wound. Both boys were arrested by an officer, and were held for trial in the Yorkville Police Court.

NEGLECTED AND SUFFERING CHILDREN.

Officer Chiardi, of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, appeared in the Jefferson Market Police Court this morning as a representative of the society in the following four cases where children were neglected:

John Fleisch was arrested Tuesday night on Mercer-st. With him were his two children aged 4 and 4 years, half-clad and half-starved. Fleisch had no home, and his wife was in an insane asylum. Justice Birky sent him to the workhouse, and consigned the children to the care of the society.

Mary Allen was found lying drunk in the street with a six week old baby. She was sent to Blackwell's Island for three days.

William McNeur, age ten, found begging in his bare feet, was sent to the Juvenile Asylum; and Nelson Smith, age nine, found crying on the steps of the Eleventh Street Police Court, was told he would be beaten if he returned home without a certain sum of money, was held for examination.

GLEASON AND ROBERTS HELD.

Andrew L. Roberts and Valentine Gleason in 1875 were arrested under charges of a conspiracy by which nearly \$1,000,000 of their property had been thrown upon the market. They were not convicted, but civil actions were brought against them and nearly \$100,000 of their property found on deposit was seized. In January, 1876, the New-York Guaranty and Indemnity Company recovered against them a judgment for \$91,013.35. They had been arrested on an order granted upon the complaint and were held under the execution which was issued in December, 1877. The State court denied a writ of habeas corpus, and the next day the Court of Appeals denied a new trial ordered by the Court of Appeals on December 5, 1879. A motion was made before Judge Spear to have the prisoners discharged. He decided yesterday that they could not be discharged while the order of arrest remained.

A GUARDIAN CHARGED WITH FRAUD.

James G. Hughes was arrested yesterday at No. 200 East Twenty-first-st. by the District-Attorney's office on the charge of embezzling the funds of William Kelly, a minor. Hughes was appointed, in October, 1871, guardian of the child who is now only ten years old, and who lives with his aunt, Catherine Hand, in New-Hamshire. It is alleged that Hughes has collected \$3,022 12 on a life insurance policy of the boy's father, and has paid out \$1,000 to the child, so that the child is entitled to as he has two brothers. He has also collected \$66 every quarter for a long time, all of which belongs to the boy. Catherine Hand says the child has never received anything but \$300, Justice Oberberg held Hughes for trial in default of \$1,000 bail.

BOLD OFFER OF A BRIBE.

Andrew Cassano, an Italian, called at the United States District-Attorney's office, and the office of the Sees Service yesterday, and offered two assistants \$1,000 if they would stop all criminal proceedings against Giovanni Gatti, of No. 83 Second-st. Who was held last week for passing counterfeit coin. The boldness of the man surprised the assistants, who was arrested, and Commissioner Shields held him in \$2,500 bail. He is an interpreter, and is about twenty-eight years old.

CIVIL NOTES.

The report of the referee granting to George Miller an absolute decree from his wife Margaret Miller was confirmed by Justice Donohue in the Supreme Court, Special Term, yesterday.

In the suit of James W. Smith, assignee of the bankrupt firm of Lagrave & Ous, against H. C. Phillips and others, Judge Chace has rendered a decision in favor of the debtors. He said he could not see any reason on which the bill could be sustained upon the evidence.

The Surrogate during the year just past took action upon 902 wills offered for probate, seventy-three wills were contested; testimonies were given in 50 cases; 4 wills were rejected; 220 were admitted to probate, and the remainder are now pending. 1,500 letters of nomination were filed, and 6,500 motions have been granted. The Surrogate has held court for the hearing of cases of wills for 219 days; for the hearing of specious motions, 100 days; and he has written 147 opinions. The Surrogate's letters were well drawn, decrees, motions, etc., passed over by him were 11,000.

During the year 1879 there were 119 cases heard at the General Term of the Superior Court; 714 cases were tried; 2,392 motions were heard, and decisions rendered; 1,628 orders were rendered, and 1,020 foresees were granted. In the General Trial Term, 548 cases were heard at trial term; 49 cases were tried at the equity term; 16,223 orders were granted at Chambers; judgments were rendered in 40 diverse actions; 1,000 motions were filed, and 2,000 decrees, motions, etc., passed over by him were 11,000.

DECISIONS—DEC. 31.

*Supreme Court—Chambers.—By Judge Van Vorst.—In the cause of *Wright—Dismalay*, Compt'n and Conduits,訴人, and an affidavit of \$250 made to defendant.*

*Brooklyn.—By Justice Donohue, report filed, and the cause of *Wright—Dismalay*, Order of Restraint, and the cause of *Wright—Dismalay*, Motion for Restraint, and the cause of *Wright—Dismalay*, Motion for Restraint, and the cause of *Wright—Dismalay*, Motion for Restraint.*

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